



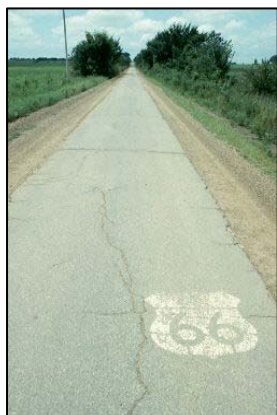
National Park Service News Release

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ROUTE 66 LISTED AMONG WORLD'S AND NATION'S MOST ENDANGERED PLACES



Route 66 near Miami, OK

Santa Fe –Route 66 has been named to the World Monuments Fund 2008 Watch List of 100 Most Endangered Sites, among such others as the cultural sites of Iraq, Machu Picchu in Peru, and modern Shanghai in China. Motels on Route 66 are particularly threatened and as a category have been named to the 2007 America's Eleven Most Endangered Places List by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Preservation Oklahoma and the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance have also listed Route 66 motels on their 2007 state lists of endangered properties. These listings bring important attention to Route 66 around the nation and the world, raising awareness of its significance, history, challenges and successes.

Route 66: Route 66 is arguably the most famous highway in America, and perhaps the world. Created in 1926 as part of the nation's first system of federal highways, it was popular as the shortest, best-weather route across the country. Linking Chicago to Santa Monica, it helped transform America into the automobile-oriented society it is today. Through literature, film, television, and song, it became an international icon. When the route was decommissioned in 1985, many of the mom and pop establishments that comprised the soul of the highway fell on hard times as traffic and



Twin Arrows, AZ in 2001

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customers were diverted to the interstates. Today, significant buildings and businesses are threatened by economic hardship, deferred maintenance, development pressures, and a lack of awareness of the importance of these recent-past resources. Since 1985, concerned members of the public have organized to help preserve Route 66. In 2001, Congress recognized the significance of Route 66 through the creation of the National Park Service Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, a federal program of technical and financial preservation assistance.



Twin Arrows, AZ in 2006



Standard Oil station in Odell, IL before restoration



Standard Oil station in Odell, IL, after restoration with NPS grant assistance.

National Park Service: Since 2001, the National Park Service Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program has been collaborating with individuals, nonprofits, and government agencies to raise awareness about historic Route 66 and the importance of preserving it. Approximately \$1 million in cost-share grants has been awarded to 68 preservation and research projects through the program. The endangered-places listings will provide important leverage for this work. The NPS continues to work with partners to find solutions and best practices for preserving motels and other highway properties through actions such as educational outreach, policy and financial incentives for preservation at local levels, and the promotion of heritage tourism.

Editor's Notes: For more information, please contact the National Park Service's Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program at 505-988-6701, or visit www.cr.nps.gov/rt66. More information can also be found at the websites of the World Monuments Fund <http://wmf.org/>, the National Trust <http://www.nationaltrust.org/11most>, the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance http://www.nmheritage.org/files/Most_Endangered_Places_2007_Release, and Preservation Oklahoma <http://www.preserveok.org/news.php?id=29>.

ROUTE 66 IMAGES (HIGH RES.) AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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